

REMARKS

Claim 41 is pending in the application. Claim 41 has been amended. Claims 3-6, 8-10 and 42-44 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

It is noted with appreciation that the Office Action has indicated that claim 41 would be allowable if rewritten to include all the limitations of the base claim and of any intervening claims. Claim 41 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of independent claim 43, there being no intervening claims. Accordingly, it is submitted that independent claim 41 is now allowable.

The Office Action rejects claims 6, 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,562,462 to Matsuba et al., hereafter Matsuba et al., hereafter Matsuba.

This rejection is moot since claims 6, 9 and 10 have been canceled.

The Office Action rejects claims 6 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,961,709 to Noschese, hereafter Noschese.

This rejection is moot since claims 6 and 9 have been canceled.

The Office Action rejects claims 3-6, 8, 10 and 42-44 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,924,875 to Tighe et al., hereafter Tighe in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,902,606 to Patraw, hereafter Patraw.

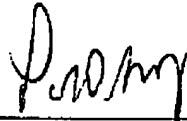
This rejection is moot since claims 3-6, 8, 10 and 42-44 have been canceled.

It is respectfully requested for the reasons set forth above that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn, that claim 41 be allowed and that this application be passed to issue.

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that this amendment places the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and passed to issue. If this amendment is deemed to not place the application in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that it be entered for the purpose of appeal.

Respectfully Submitted,

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